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1988 March 27

Basil Wentworth
1413 Elliston Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Basil,

How I enjoyed your first SWN issue! You have a very distinctive style, my dear man! Keep up this good work!
It also pleases me to get a confirmation of what I had suspected all along, to wit that you are a sophisticated American. One who appears to know his languages! It is quite apparent that you have progressed beyond "la plume de ma tante"! But let me be my fussy, nit-picking, cocky self here and make you aware that it should be: "E<u>t</u> bien, plus ça change..." and not "Eh bien, etc." as it was printed on the last line of the first page of the Jan-Feb issue! But of course you knew this; it must have been just a typo.

Forgive me, I'm just a natural show-off. But like Frank Lloyd Wright, I have always opted for honest arrogance and left hypocritical modesty to others! At one time, I spoke 5 languages fluently, but as time wears on and one gets older, and there is no opportunity for frequent conversation in such languages (most Americans do not even know how to speak proper English), the fluency evaporates. Especially when a foreign tongue is not even related to any "Western" language, like Japanese. I learned that language during WWII (crash-course required to join the Allied Underground Force in the South East Asian Theatre of Operations) but there is nothing left of my knowledge of Japanese. O yes, I can bid the Sushi Chef a "kon banwa" and pleasantly murmur "doitashi mashite" when the waitress smiles "arigato arimasen" as I give her a tip. But that is almost all that's left. Not that I ever spoke it fluently, but I could read and understand. But Japanese was NOT one of the 5 tongues I used to master...
Enough of all this. Mundus vult decipi, decipiatur ergo!

Your letter of the 13th of February was received with a great deal of gratitude. I would like to see my Keyboard Mania series republished in SWN, so that more people may benefit from these writings and maybe even put my teachings in practice! Your letter has not been laying dormant on my desk. No, I have been diligently (as far as my tired heart can indeed ever be associated with diligence) looking for a solution to a real problem. It boils down to this:

My Zebra Disk Drive is for the umpteenth time on the blink; I have had more than my share of troubles with this system. All my textfiles in MScript are on 3-inch disks and I have no tape cassette backups of any of them. Luckily I did make a cassette backup copy of my MScript wordprocessor, otherwise I would not even be able to type this letter! But all 7 installments of my Keyboard Mania series are on 1 disk and I can't even send it!

You see, not only can I not run the disk and am thusly not able to make a tape cassette copy, but I cannot even send you the disk for you to run on someone else's Zebra System! And that is because the Keyboard Mania textfiles are combined with another textfile that is very personal and of a very sensitive nature, having to do with a legal account of my life with my estranged Danish wife... You can well understand that I do not want this to come in the hands of just anyone, unless it is the executor of my will...

I therefore decided to send you printed copies of my writings. I have written to LIST for the originals, but they have not even answered my query. They might have a problem locating them, because after my last installment, the editorial office changed hands several times and I know that they are not the world's best organized people!

Enclosed are therefore good Xerographic copies of the articles in question:

KBM 1 (3 pp), KBM 2 (3 pp), KBM 3 (3 pp), KBM 4 (4 pp), KBM 5 (5 pp), KBM 6 (3 pp), KBM 7 (2 pp) and an addendum to KBM 7 (1 p in RED print, another reduced page in black)

KBM 1 of course stands for "Keyboard Mania part 1".

I have carefully gone over the text and modified or updated it where necessary.

Each installment has LETTERED pages; you will have to obliterate this information. They were only used to assure proper sequence.

You have the option of printing the pages as is, full size. I assume that you can do this, since it seems that the program listings in SWN are full size TS2040 printouts.
I am willing to accept a lesser remuneration for each printed page. I hope that you will see fit to accept this proposition, even though it means that you cannot exercise your editorial rights! But you may want to accept the writings of someone who has over 120 publications behind him, most of which were NEVER edited by the likes of editors of international scientific and engineering journals.

I have also added Exhibits A and B, reduced copies of one sample page, at a reduction of respectively 72 and 50 percent. You may want to use these to assess the value of using reduced print. The 72% reduction is acceptable, but you would have to use two pages side by side, turned 90 degrees on one printed page. May not be acceptable. The 50% reduction is in my opinion too small a print but you be the judge. If you opt for any of these two possibilities (?), I can not consider a lesser renumeration!

KBM 5 has three photographs which I hope to find the negatives of and have them reprinted to send you. The Xerographic copies of the photographs are acceptable but copies of copies are not.

Back to your letter. I like to assume that you have a file copy. Or maybe you use an MScript textfile to put on screen, so you know what you wrote me. I am enclosing your letter itself, in case either of my assumptions proves to be wrong. I have made a copy of it for my files.

Paragraph 3 of your letter puzzles me. You don't have to take MY word for it. I sent you a backpage of a LIST newsletter before, but I am attaching one again. I have boxed, in red ink, relevant policy statements about copyright, from which you will see that I OWN my writings and can do with them what I want and don't have to share additional earnings with anyone! Please file this information so that I do not have to again send you such a copy as proof that I have copyright.

None of the writings in question have appeared in commercial publications.

I like your limericks. That is totally beyond me; I cannot even come up with the simplest rhyme! You're a wizard with words...

You also touched upon retyping my material. You're the boss, but I hope that you will not consider this. Simply because I would like to see this series published in SWN in my lifetime. And I have no idea how long I will be around. I am very serious, Basil and I am not being morbid, but I do live on borrowed time. If I kick the bucket before you have decided what to do with my stuff I promise I will come back to haunt you!

Maybe the whole thing will not materialize. You want themes in your issues. If the theme is going to be wordprocessing, you will probably not want to print all 7 installments in one issue. If the theme is NOT wordprocessing, then WHEN will my stuff appear? It seems to me that either way I lose!

You should also remember that after my demise, your remuneration is of no use at all to me. Not only would the US$ be worth even less than in Japan, but where I'm going I would need flameproof bills!

To entice you to make a quick decision, I am enclosing a SASE. If your decision is NOT to publish anything in any form, as is, retyped, edited, reduced or whatever, let me know and I will send you a large SASE to return the manuscripts to me. I should appreciate it very much if you would answer ALL the topics I brought up in this letter!

In anticipation of your speedy answer, I am,

Yours very truly,

Cedric

/Attachments/ Enclosures

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If you wish to begin subscribing later in the year, please sign up for the end of this year and all of next.

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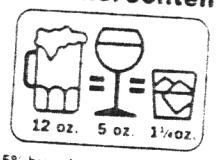
All are equal in alcohol content.



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